6. MORE ABOUT THE HMIS

HMIS HISTORY

Although the HMIS became operational in 1979, its roots can be traced back to the publication of Federal Standard 313B in 1971. That standard requires suppliers to provide health and safety and physical and chemical information on potentially hazardous materials purchased by Federal agencies. The suppliers must provide that information on a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) (see Figure 6-l). In 1978, Department of Defense established policies for the development of the HMIS as the single primary reference database" in the Department of Defense for information on hazardous items. The Defense Logistics Agency was assigned development and operating responsibility for the system. The operating system was implemented in March 1979 and is operated at one of the agency's primary level field activities, the Defense General Supply Center (DGSC) in Richmond, Virginia. In part, the system was designed to consolidate other partial and decentralized data sources in the Department of Defense and bring that information into a readily disseminated computerized database. Starting with approximately 2,000 partial records in 1979, the system has been built to over 30,000 comprehensive records on hazardous items in its first six years.

FROM THE SUPPLIER TO HMIS - A GENERAL OVERVIEW

How does the information flow from the manufacturer through HMIS to you? Now let's trace a potentially hazardous item through the system.*

Government contracts require that suppliers of hazardous items provide a special form called aMSDS which should arrive at the receiving facility before the material. The MSDS supplies most of the information on an HMIS record. A logical question then is "How does the information on an MSDS get into the system?"

On receipt of an MSDS, a copy is sent to the focal point(s) for the agency that ordered the item. Following the instructions in DoD 6050.5-M, DOD Hazardous Materials Information System Procedures, the health and safety focal point enters the MSDS data into the system. The transportation focal point examines the MSDS and, in some cases, a copy of the shipping papers. Using the appropriate regulations, the transportation focal point completes the "Transportation Data" category for that item and enters the data into the HMIS. The Hazardous Materials Technical Center is the HMIS disposal focal

*Please keep in mind that the "official" procuring process is not of concern here so, in the example, we're not addressing most of the required contracting procedures. You should refer to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.223-3 Hazardous Materials Identification and Material Safety Data and service supplements to the FAR for more information on contractual requirements.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Form Approved
OMB No. 1218-0072

TYPE OF DATA SHEET
O NEW ☐ REVISED
(If REVISED, S..,*-. No. _____)

SECTION 1 . GENERAL INFORMATION

MANUFACTURER'S NAME	FSCM/FSCNM	CONTRACT NUMBER OR ORDER NUMBER
MANUFACTURER'S ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)	● ART NUMBER, PRODUCT AND/OR TRADE NAME	
NATIONAL STOCK NUMBER, ACTIVITY CONTROL NUMBER, OR LOCAL STOCK NUMBER	HAZARDOUS MATERIAL ☐ YES ☐ NO	SPECIFICATION
TYPE, GRADE AND/OR CLASS	NRC LICENSE NUMBER	EPA REGISTRATION NUMBER
CHEMICAL NAME AND SYNONYMS — FAMILY		FORMULA
TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF CO" ■ ANY POIN TOF CONTACT	SIGNATURE	EMERGENCY TELE- ● "OWE NUMBER / DATE

Sample I

SECTION II . COMPOSITION

NIOSH NUMBER	CHEMICAL NAME (Ingredients)	%	TLV

SECTION III . PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

● 08LM POINT (°F & °C)		CRITICAL TEMP (°F . °C)		SOLUBILITY IN WATER ..	
SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H_2O : ,>)		VISCOSITY		AUTOIGNITION TEMP (°F . °C)	
EVAPORATION RATE (: 1)		VAPOR ● "',s. "r. (MM HG)		CRITICAL ● *sswms	
OCCO"POSITIOM TEMP (°F & °C)		PERCENT VOLATILE BY VOLUME (%)		CORROSION RATE (Temp :) (Material Rel :)	
VAPOR DENSITY (Air . .)		pH		APPEARANCE AND ODOR	
FREEZING (Melt) - POINT (°F . °C)		MAGNETISM (Milligauss)			

SECTION IV . FIRE ANO EXPLOSIOM HAZARD DATA

FLAS" POINT (Method Used)	FLAMMABLE (Explosive) LIMITS	
	LEL	UEL

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA

SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT

UNUSUA . FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS

Figure 6-1. Material Safety Data Sheet.

SECTION v . HEALTH HAZARD DATA

EFFECTS OF ● CUTE AND CHRONIC OVEREXPOSURE

EMERGENCY AND FIRST ● PROCEDURES

SECTION VI . REACTIVITY DATA

STABILITY
☐ UNSTABLE
☐ STABLE

CONDITIONS TO ● wolo *(Stability)*

INCOMPATABILITY *(Materials to avoid)*

HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION
☐ MAY OCCUR
☐ WILL NOT OCCUR

CONDITIONS TO AVOID *(Polymerization)*

SECTION VII . SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURES

STEPS TO ● c.ra. am IN CASE MATERIAL IS ● SPILLED

● ASIE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL METHOD

NEUTRALIZING AGENT

SECTION VIII . OCCUPATIONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION *(Specify type)*

VENTILATION *(specify type)*

● 90 Tac?o"# GLOVES *(specify type)*

EYE ● *OTCCTIO. W-,

OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT *(specify type)*

SECTION IX . SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

HANDLING AND STORAGE ● R?. CA" T,OIU

OTHER PRECAUTIONS

SECTION X . TRANSPORTATION

APPLICABLE ● cGu L. T,es

☐ 49 CFR ☐ IMCO ☐ TARIFF 6D ☐ IATA ☐ MILITARY AIR *(AFR 71-4)*

SHIPPING NAME	ID NUMBER	REPORT QTY

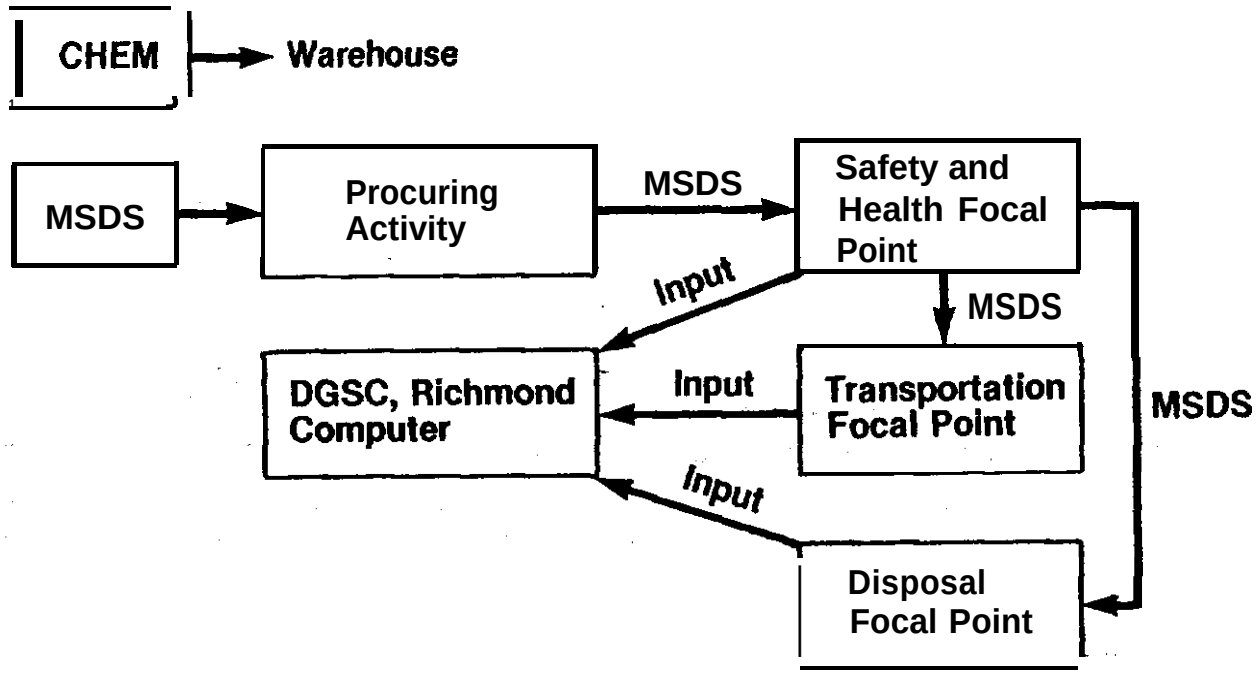
HAZARD CLASS	LABELS

UNIT CONTAINER	DOT SPEC CONTAINER QTY EXEMPT/DOD CCN	LIMITED QTY

AEROSOL PROPELLANT(S)	NET EXPL WT

Figure 6-1. Material Safety Data Sheet (continued).

point and enters the required information for the disposal publication into the system.



How information on hazardous materials gets into HMIS .

This process can be further illustrated with an example. The motor shop at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard requisitions a new item -- "Solvent X." The commercial supplier is identified and. a contract to purchase the item is issued. The contract specifies the shipping address and directs the supplier to prepare and supply the MSDS in accordance with the procedures in Federal Standard 313. Normally the MSDS will be supplied to the purchasing activity with an additional copy being provided to an HMIS safety and health focal point in the Military Service or Agency that purchased the item. In any case it is up to the purchasing activity to assure that the MSDS is sent, in accordance with established service or agency procedures, to the appropriate HMIS focal point. The focal point assures proper preparation of the data for input into the system. You should note the NSN and specification number (if known) on the MSDS. A list of all HMIS focal points is found in Appendix A.

Now...what happens to these raw data once they have been received from the suppliers? First the HMIS safety and health focal point reviews the MSDS for reasonableness, accuracy, and completeness. Then they prepare that portion of the data for entry into the system. The next step is to have the people responsible for developing the. transportation and disposal data develop the information and place it in the system. Be aware that data in the HMIS is used by more than these three functions, but the terms are used for convenience of identifying data groups.

If you take a minute to scan several HMIS microfiche records, you will probably notice that some are almost complete -- others are almost empty. The data in the HMIS is only as good as the information provided to the Government. Most manufacturers of hazardous materials are conscientious and provide good MSDSs for their products. However, some manufacturers supply as little information as possible. In most cases those nearly blank microfiche records are caused by nearly blank MSDSs. Blank entries can also mean something else. They can signify that the data element does not apply for the listed

item. For example, a 15-gallon drum of nitric acid will not have an entry under "Flash Point" (or under any of the other nonapplicable data elements).

IF YOU FIND AN ERROR

Occasionally errors slip into the HMIS. The errors may be the result of improper input -- for example, two digits may have been transposed (e.g., a flash point of 93F Tag Closed Cup was entered rather than 39F Tag Closed Cup).

In other cases, the manufacturer-may have made an error when completing the MSDS. In any event, if you notice an error or inconsistency in the data you should notify your appropriate focal point. After contacting the manufacturer, the focal point will make every effort to correct the data in the HMIS. You may notice the corrected data in the forthcoming cumulative update.

If you find an error, contact your focal point.

Likewise, if you have an MSDS for an item not in the HMIS, forward a copy to your focal point (indicate the stock number and contract number on the MSDS) . If your agency does not have a focal point, you should contact the Defense Logistics Agency located at the address on page 2-2 of this guide. If necessary, the manufacturer will be contacted to verify the information. The data will then be entered into the system.

If you have any questions concerning the HMIS and its use, please contact your focal point for assistance. Through your efforts and use, the HMIS can become the valuable resource it's meant to be.